

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for generating a seek direction detecting signal for an optical pickup determining the relative position of the center of an optical spot focused on an optical disk with respect to the center of a disk track, is disclosed. The apparatus focuses a main beam and a sub-beam having a predetermined aberration in the tangential direction on a track of the optical disk by a light dividing unit. The main beam is focused on a first optical detector, and the sub-beam is focused on a second optical detector neighboring the first optical detector. The second optical detector is divided into three or four portions in a direction corresponding to the radial direction of the optical disk, is divided into two portions in a direction corresponding to the tangential direction of the optical disk, and therefore has six or eight separate areas. The portions of the second optical detector receive the portions of the sub-beam and convert the received optical signals into independent electrical signals. A signal processing portion includes a first signal processing portion summing and differentiating the signals output from the first optical detector, and detecting a track error signal; and a second signal processing portion summing and differentiating the signals output from the second optical detector, and a generator generating a seek direction detecting signal from the phase difference between the resulting signals from the first signal processing portion and the second signal processing portion.